

Time to talk about stormwater drainage system

When the City's drainage system for handling runoff from snowstorms and thunder showers is overwhelmed, as happens each year and particularly occurred in the fall of 2013, flooding can happen, causing significant impacts to individual properties, businesses and public facilities.

Because of these experiences, Lakewood residents have asked City Council to look into ways to make improvements more rapidly to the drainage system to reduce flooding and protect property. As a result, the City Council has started a communitywide discussion with residents, businesses and community members about potentially increasing the service charge property owners pay to accelerate improvements to the system in Lakewood.

You can provide your comments and ideas in a variety of ways including contacting your City Council members directly or providing comments online at www.Lakewood.org/StormwaterUtility.

Please provide pictures or videos of flooding problems you have experienced or know about along with your comments. Send your pictures or videos with an approximate address of where the flooding occurred and the date if possible to the online address listed above. Your photos or videos will ensure City staff is aware of the problems you've experienced, and the photos and videos could be used for public displays at meetings, on the City's website or in City videos.

If you don't have Internet access or you have specific questions, please call Vince Casteel, the manager of the utilities section in the Public Works Department, at 303-987-7941.

Visit Lakewood.org/StormwaterUtility regularly because the page will have updates on any upcoming meetings and information as the discussion continues, including information about potential options to accelerate improvements to the system.

The drainage gulches, inlets, culverts, pipes and other structures in the city that handle storm runoff would reach from Lakewood to Grand Junction if laid end to end. Since 2000, Lakewood property owners have paid a stormwater utility service charge to pay for maintenance, repairs and improvements



Heavy runoff from large storms can cause walls of branches, entire trees and full-size commercial trash dumpsters to wash down gulches in Lakewood, blocking the water flow.

to the system to eliminate or reduce flooding after storms. Listed below is information about the City's stormwater drainage system and the stormwater utility service charge that property owners pay.

- The stormwater utility service charge is similar to the wastewater charge that property owners pay. It is based on about how much runoff property owners contribute to the system.

- For the stormwater service charge, property owners pay 88 cents per month for each 1,000 square feet of "impervious" surface they have on their property. "Impervious" means that water can't soak into the soil, and it runs off into the stormwater drainage system. Such surfaces include roofs, driveways, patios, parking lots and similar items.

- Single-family homeowners pay

a stormwater service charge of \$23.76 each year, which amounts to about \$1.98 a month. To see estimates of what businesses pay, visit Lakewood.org/StormwaterUtility.

- Stormwater service charges for single-family homes in cities along the Front Range vary from about \$1.32 a month to about \$13 month, with the average at about \$5.29 a month.

- Lakewood's service charge has been the same since property owners began paying it in 2000, and it generates about \$2.5 million a year to pay for maintenance, repairs, replacements and improvements to the system as well as for meeting federal water quality regulations for stormwater runoff.

- Lakewood has 18 drainages with 100-year flood plains running generally west to east through the city. All of them experience flooding issues, and the city has numerous local areas that flood as well.

- It would cost an estimated \$125-155 million to fix all the issues across the city.



Beyond lights and sirens

Read about how Lakewood Police agents go beyond their normal duty to help residents and the community on page 4.

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Free citywide cleanup in October

This year's free citywide Cleanup Days, conducted in conjunction with arc Thrift Stores, will again allow residents to clear out unwanted appliances, car parts and other items from their homes, and this year's event has a few changes such as a new location. Be sure to visit www.Lakewood.org/CleanUp for the most up-to-date information.

The free event will be 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18 and Oct. 25 at the Jeffco Stadium, 500 Kipling St. Residents must enter from Kipling on the west side of the stadium.

Lakewood residents living north of West Alameda Avenue can bring their items to the cleanup on Oct. 18, and residents living south of

Alameda can participate on Oct. 25. Residents need to bring proof that they live in Lakewood. For specific questions, please call 303-987-7193.

All items can be dropped off at the event for free except for cathode ray tube televisions or computer monitors, which will cost \$10 each. These are the older devices that used glass vacuum tubes to display images on the screen.

The City's continued partnership with arc Thrift Stores benefits both the city and the stores. The Lakewood-based stores make every day Earth Day by providing a way to divert millions of pounds of household and other items annually from landfills. Those items are reused

by customers who shop at the stores, or the stores recycles them.

Arc will be accepting gently used household items, clothing, small appliances and small furniture at the cleanup to be sold in the stores, which provide funds for programs for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Jefferson County.

See [Cleanup](#) page 7

Go in-depth

Look for links in bold and go online to Lakewood.org to watch videos, see photos and read more.

Letter from the **mayor**

Proposed annual budget reflects the community's core values



Each September and October, City Council focuses on the very important process of evaluating and approving the City's budget for the following year. These deliberations are the final stage of a coordinated yearlong process that takes place in every department. The final outcome determines the spending priorities for at least the next 14 months (see budget story on page 8). While it's tempting to look at a budget as 552 pages of numbers, in reality it is so much more than that. At the recent annual City Council Budget Study Session, Ward 3 Council member Shakti called our budget a "moral document." I very much like that characterization. The allocation of precious public financial resources must align with the goals of the community.

Our fundamental mission in local government is to deliver a high standard of the kind of services that

foster a great quality of life. In many cases these are services that we don't always think about but often use every day. Roads, streetlights, stop lights, parks, trails, open space and recreation centers all come to mind. But insightful planning and zoning along with reasonable enforcement of our property codes also add to both quality of life and property values. We should also have a role in nurturing the kind of cultural opportunities that lift our individual and collective spirits. We must communicate rapidly and honestly with our residents. And, our most important role of all, is to ensure we live in a safe community through the excellence of our police and court system.

When viewed this way, our budget document is really a 552-page expression of the values we all share as a community. Through years of conversations with our residents, City Council has developed a set of Core Community Values available for viewing at www.Lakewood.org/CityCouncil. Public safety and open communication are two values already mentioned. We also stress fiscal responsibility, of course, and we want to continually create a variety of quality transportation choices and economic developments. We

feel it's vital to reinvestment in our physical, technological and human infrastructure and to emphasize community sustainability. Together these values will encourage the kind of quality living environment we all desire.

Every single dollar allocated in our budget is first measured against the benchmark of these core values. If it doesn't align with one or more of them, then we cannot justify the expenditure. The largest share of our General Fund is allocated to our Police Department, and rightfully so. The Public Works Department (streets, streetlights, snowplowing, etc.) and the Community Resources Department (parks, recreation and cultural facilities) also receive significant allocations. Together, what I sometimes call the "Three P's" (police, parks and public works) comprise about 84 percent of our expenditures. That is our formula for ensuring the continuity of the fabulous quality of life we all share here in Lakewood.

City Council also believes that maintaining significant financial reserves is an essential component of prudent fiscal management. Today that savings account stands at the highest level in our city's history. Because of that, City Council also

believes in systematically reinvesting some of these reserves back into the community through selective infrastructure improvement projects. We are just wrapping up a nearly \$3 million program funded in 2012 that improved access to and provided amenities at our new light rail stations. Currently we are in the midst of a large renovation at the Civic Center that includes transforming the plaza into a wonderful community gathering space. In 2015-2016, we look to inject an extra \$2 million into building more sidewalks for the convenience and safety of our residents. We also have a separate capital improvement program that lists more than 60 projects over the next five years.

As policymakers, City Council must look five, 15 and 50 years down the road to help ensure this community will always be the kind of safe and desirable place that attracted us all here in the first place. With our shared values as the guideposts, our budget is the road map to that destination.

Bob Murphy
303-987-7040
bmurphy@lakewood.org

Council **Corner**

Ward 5



Karen Harrison



Tom Quinn

Join the conversation at **Nextdoor.com**, meetings and elsewhere

Many Ward 5 residents have used the website **Nextdoor.com** to find recommendations for contractors, to find lost animals, to give away unwanted items, etc. Lakewood Police also use this website to notify local residents of suspicious activities in a neighborhood, or to let residents know of an upcoming event the Police Department sponsors such as Drug Take-Back Day. The City also posts information about neighborhood meetings, road projects, festivals and other City events and information to neighborhoods participating in Nextdoor.com. Updates are sent out regularly. Your information is not sold or sent to other vendors. Give it a try! Visit www.Lakewood.org/Neighbors to find out more, or visit Nextdoor.com to find out if your neighborhood has a website. If it doesn't, you can always start one.

Jewell and Wadsworth area businesses continue to look for opportunities to grow their businesses. The South Lakewood Business Association works hard to employ, educate and support local businesses. Come join the businesses in the area at the association's monthly meetings at 7:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the White

Fence Farm, 6263 W. Jewell Ave.

Our monthly Ward 5 meetings with residents have moved dates and location. We are meeting at 9 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month at the Bear Valley Church, 10001 W. Jewell Ave. Please join us for local updates and speakers of interest. You can also sign up to receive email reminders of these meetings at www.Lakewood.org/CityCouncil by visiting our section of the page, and these reminders are posted to neighborhoods in Ward 5 through Nextdoor.com.

This fall Lakewood's Bear Creek Lake Park, located in Ward 5, continues to recover from the September 2013 flood, which damaged trees and vegetation, trails and other park facilities. Many thanks to the volunteers who contributed hundreds of hours of labor over the past year by removing flood debris, picking up litter and repairing trails and bridges. More volunteers are always needed, and interested community organizations, schools and other groups are encouraged to contact the park about volunteer projects. Call the park at 303-697-6159.

The Carmody Park Master Plan was completed this year after an open planning process, which included several well-attended public meetings and a workshop with Carmody Middle School students. The Master Plan provides a comprehensive blueprint for redevelopment of the 34-acre park to include an updated playground, additional trails and increased parking. Community input was vital to this planning effort. The plan is available for review on the City of Lakewood's website at

Lakewood.orgCarmodyParkMasterPlan. In August, the Ward 5 council members submitted a joint letter of support for Lakewood's grant application to Great Outdoors Colorado requesting funding to begin Phase 1 of the park improvements.

Finally, we are planning a joint Cops, Community and Council event with the Ward 3 council members for later this

fall or winter. These events are a great opportunity to interact with your City Council members and police agents to learn more about law enforcement and public safety topics of interest to you. A date and location will be announced soon. Please contact us with suggested topics you would like to hear about!

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Know Your Ward

Visit www.Lakewood.org or
call City Clerk's Office, 303-987-7080

Your representation on Lakewood City Council is tied to the ward in which you live. Two members on City Council represent residents in each of Lakewood's five wards, which are geographic areas of Lakewood with about the same number of residents. Knowing which ward you live in can help you contact the City Council members who represent you if you have a question, concern or if you just want to learn about what issues are before City Council.

To find out which ward you live in, call the City Clerk's Office at 303-987-7080 or visit www.Lakewood.org/CityCouncil and look for the link on the left to view a map of the wards.



City Manager
Kathy Hodgson
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Editor Stacie Oulton, 303-987-7050
Designer Alvaro Pinel

Belmar serves as catalyst for a decade

Think back to 2004. Where were you shopping, dining, working or living? How has Lakewood changed since then? What have been your favorite changes?

One of the most visible and substantive changes that has happened in Lakewood is Belmar, the distinctive downtown district with homes, shops, offices, restaurants and a public plaza at West Alameda Avenue and Wadsworth Boulevard where the Villa Italia Mall once was. The transformation from 104 acres of an indoor mall and parking lots to a well-planned pedestrian-friendly vibrant city core couldn't have happened without Lakewood residents. After witnessing years of increasing vacancy and declining sales at Villa Italia, Lakewood voters approved the creation of the City's urban renewal authority to provide tools to help replace the dying and outdated mall. Next, residents, business owners and community members participated in the Mayor's Villa Advisory Committee

that established the vision of what we have today: a place where artists live and work, where major corporations have their offices and where students can receive specialized training for careers. Continuum Partners, a local, innovative and progressive developer that recently helped redevelop Union Station, built Belmar, which celebrated its grand opening in 2004, changing the face of what would become downtown Lakewood.

In the 10 years since its opening, Belmar has been featured in numerous national and international publications and received awards as a model for ways communities can remake themselves to become economically and culturally viable well into the future. Belmar now generates more than \$200 million a year in retail sales.

On opening day, Belmar had only 24 shops and two restaurants. No residents were living on-site yet, no offices were open and only 120 employees worked in the district. Today, Belmar is home to more than 76 retailers, 21 restaurants, a movie

theater, 2,030 residents, 3,000 on-site employees, an arts district, car2go car sharing, a shuttle service to the W Line light rail and 30-plus community events. And there is still room for growth. A surface parking lot at Virginia Avenue and Teller Street is slated to become a five-story office building. A Hyatt House hotel will break ground this fall just north of Target. Holland Apartments, David Weekley Homes and Metro West Housing Solutions are currently building hundreds of apartments and townhomes, and there are still three surface parking lots that provide future development opportunities. The residents' decision to tackle the issue of a dying mall more than 10 years ago sparked all of this change, which has generated a rippling effect up and down the Alameda corridor.

Community leaders saw this potential and recognized that Belmar's vision shouldn't stop at property lines, and they formed a business improvement district for the Alameda corridor from Sheridan Boulevard to Carr Street. Such districts form when the businesses in the district vote to tax themselves to provide funds for improvements in the district. Commercial property owners voted to create the Alameda Corridor Business Improvement District in 2004 and opted for the revenue to go toward marketing, landscaping and street beautification.

Results were immediate. "Flow," Lakewood's largest outdoor art piece, was installed at Sheridan Boulevard to beautify this entrance to the city and the business district. Five more public art pieces have been added to the corridor since. Marketing efforts also have increased with the publication twice a year of LakewoodCoUSA – Best of the New West (formerly the Gateway Guide), a magazine highlighting the businesses and amenities in the Alameda area. It can be found online and in businesses along the corridor.

Alameda is loosely translated from Spanish as "a street lined with trees." Fittingly, the business district

is launching the Alameda Corridor Landscape Prioritization Plan, which lays out approaches to improving the landscaping in Alameda's right of way in a sustainable, economically feasible, achievable way. Once funding is solidified for the plan, Alameda will be on its way to having consistent, hallmark landscaping that will bring a notable identity to this major gateway to Lakewood's downtown.

Urban renewal efforts also can have ripple effects well behind its immediate area. Belmar's achievements have translated into successes and a sense of pride citywide. Colorado Christian University, whose main entrance is on Alameda, has begun revamping the campus to accommodate its needs for the next 25 years. Centura Health chose a 50-acre site near Alameda and Union Boulevard for the new St. Anthony Medical Campus, open since 2011. And property values in the Alameda corridor have increased more than 30 percent since 2001.

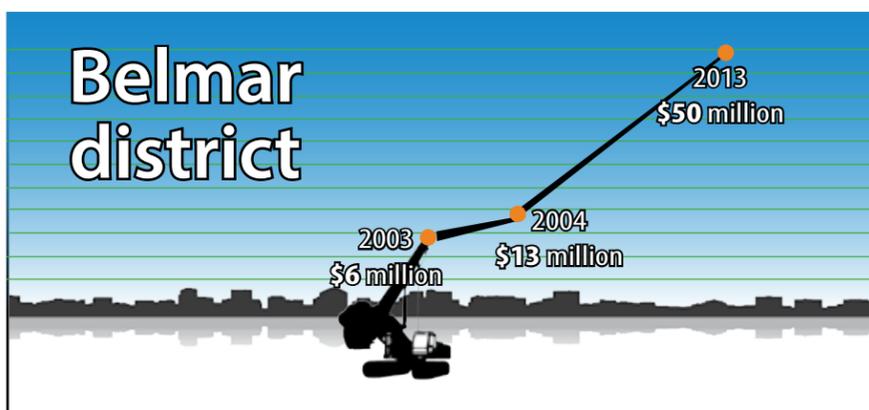
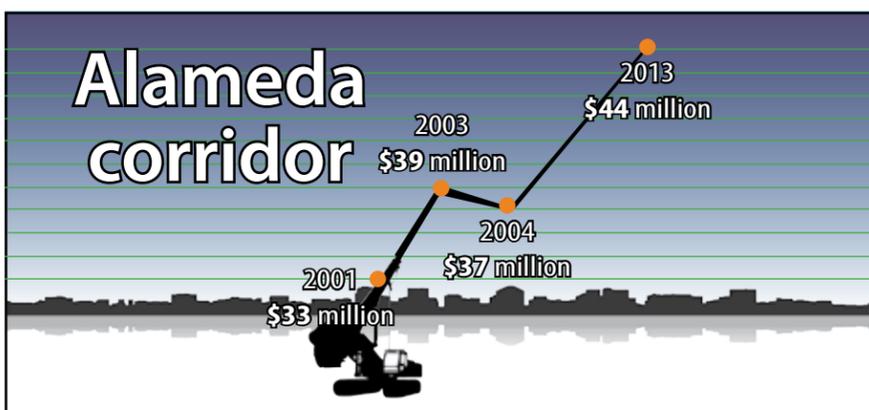
The City is proud of the catalytic change Belmar and the business district have brought to Lakewood. Downtown Lakewood is home to cultural, civic and historical attractions including the Lakewood Heritage Center and Cultural Center, Belmar Library, Belmar Park and the Civic Center. Working together, private developers, public agencies and the local business district have all contributed to the ongoing success of Lakewood's vibrancy.

What's your favorite change to Lakewood in the past 10 years?



Nanette Neelan
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Assessed property values



To submit a listing, visit Lakewood.org/GrandOpenings.

Listed below are openings of new businesses or important milestones and news about companies in Lakewood.

New Business

Association for Immigrant Defense Inc.
7500 W. Mississippi Ave., #B-190
720-496-1881
www.AidImmigrants.org

Erwin Insurance Services LLC
3900 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 310
303-246-6981
www.ErwinInsuranceCo.com

Front Range Senior Care
225 Union Blvd., Suite 150
303-963-6028
www.FrontRangeSeniorCare.com

Lakewood Dance Academy
9635 W. Colfax Ave.
303-956-8971
www.LakewoodDance.com

Let's Have a Ball Doggy Daycare
3224 S. Wadsworth Blvd., #A
720-479-8012
www.LakewoodDogBoard.com

Mile High Smiles (new owner)
Dr. Brian Levitin
8015 W. Alameda Ave., Suite 250
303-232-1830
www.MileHighSmiles.com

Ohana Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Ltd.
445 Union Blvd., Suite#302
720-231-6273
www.Nccaomdiplomates.com/OhanaAcupuncture

Moves

Arc Headquarters moved to 13949 W. Colfax Ave., Building 1, Suite 150.
303-232-1338
www.ArcJc.org

The Fall Line in Belmar has moved to a larger space in Belmar at 378 S. Teller St.
303-937-6325
www.TheFallLineStores.com

Police Department

Beyond the lights and sirens

Sometimes it's hard for residents to see the complete picture of the Lakewood Police Department. They may see the flashing lights of a patrol car or the agent making what may be an unwelcome visit to a front door. They may see Lakewood Police in the news because of a high-profile arrest or a nasty traffic accident. What they are less likely to see are the agents and detectives who are quietly, every day, trying to make their community just a little better.

After all, who hears about the agent who at any given time has three or four frail, lonely elderly women she checks on? When the agent has time between calls, she stops by the women's houses to make sure they're OK, maybe shovels their walk, moves a heavy box, or just has a quick chat to make sure they know someone cares about them. Why does the agent take the time for this? "Because somebody has to," she says.

This is also police work.

Another agent routinely goes beyond just writing tickets to homeless people by referring them to services that would help them deal with their addictions or other issues contributing to their situation.

"I'm nothing more than a middleman. Have I given them money? Yes. Have I bought them some things? Yes," one agent explained. One man was caught trying to shoplift some shoes for his 2-year-old daughter. "He got a ticket for shoplifting, but then I bought him the shoes because I couldn't stand the thought of some little 2 year old who didn't have shoes that fit." The agent didn't think this was out of the ordinary. "I don't offer them nearly



as much as I wish I could offer."

These and other insightful stories are part of "This is the Lakewood Police Department," a compilation of the department's activities and accomplishments. Read it at www.Lakewood.org/Police.

Good police work isn't just flashing lights and high-profile arrests, and it isn't even just

what happens during regular work hours. "This is the Lakewood Police Department" shows some of what members of the department, sworn and civilian, do when they hang up their uniforms or finish their shifts. This, too, is the Lakewood Police Department. Below are some of those stories.

• Every year, police employees band together for Caring by Sharing,

which provides food and gift baskets for low-income older adults during the holidays, and Christmas Cheer for Children, which distributes donated toys and gifts to families whose children otherwise would spend Christmas without any gifts.

• Employees such as Agent Jesus "Moose" Chavez and Records Management Technician Jo Anne Armstrong spend countless hours raising funds for charity. Chavez runs half- and full marathons to raise money for a variety of needs including school programs at Alameda International High School where he is the school resource officer. Armstrong is known for running bake sales, raffling off housekeeping sessions and selling homemade dog treats and more to raise money for kids with cancer, medical research and dog shelters.

• The department offers a shred day every year to help residents safely dispose of personal documents to guard against identity theft, and it participates in the National Drug Take-Back Day to provide for the proper disposal of over-the-counter and prescription medications.

Regional crime lab opens

The Lakewood Police Department has helped spearhead the opening of the Jefferson County Regional Crime Lab, which will make it faster and easier for law enforcement in the county to get DNA results, analyze firearms, uncover fingerprints and examine other evidence.

Housed in the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office complex in Golden, the lab combines the resources of the police departments in Lakewood, Golden, Wheat Ridge and Arvada and the Sheriff's Office to create a comprehensive, state-of-the-art lab.

"It's a prime example of what we can do if we collaborate, if we're smart about identifying those kinds of functions in government where we're going to save taxpayers money by working with our friends in the county," Lakewood Police Division



Police chiefs from around Jefferson County get an inside look at the bullet recovery tank at the new regional crime lab.

Chief Bill Rush said recently when interviewed by Lakewood Mayor Bob Murphy on "Spotlight on Lakewood."

Watch at www.Lakewood.org/Spotlight to get an inside look at the lab. Rush said that the agencies started working on the regional lab several years ago because they

realized that their individual budgets couldn't pay for a high-tech lab. But if they pooled their resources, they could create a lab that would more effectively fight crime. The lab allows agencies to get evidence results sooner than when agencies had to send evidence to be analyzed by an outside laboratory.

E-cigarettes added to City's no-smoking laws

The City's no-smoking law applies to electronic smoking devices, and it bans the use of those devices in all areas where the smoking of tobacco and marijuana are banned.

The City Council added the devices to the City's no-smoking law earlier this year, and the ban went into effect on Aug. 16.

The use of electronic smoking devices is now prohibited in all smoke-free locations. This includes public buildings, day care centers, schools, libraries, recreational centers, restaurants, bars, museums, retail stores, buses, light rail trains

and station platforms. It also bans smoking and the use of electronic smoking devices within 25 feet of the entrance to buildings.

An electronic smoking device includes any electronic oral device that provides a vapor of nicotine or any other substance for inhalation. This includes devices sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-cigarillo, e-pipe or e-hookah. The use of electronic smoking devices with marijuana oil or wax is also not permitted in public settings.

The law allows electronic smoking devices and other tobacco products to be used in tobacco businesses, hookah bars and cigar-tobacco bars. They also may be used on the outdoor patios of liquor-licensed establishments and businesses where food or beverages are served if the business allows smoking on the patio.



Want to help a child in need during the holidays?

Donate new, unwrapped gifts and toys or cash to the Lakewood Police Department starting in October for its Christmas Cheer for Children, 445 S. Allison Parkway. More information at 303-987-7105.



Fall into adventure at Bear Creek Lake Park

Temperatures might be cooling, but the activity at Bear Creek Lake Park is as bustling as it's ever been. Fall is arguably the best time of year to explore the park by participating in one of the naturalist-guided night hikes, learning to mountain bike or even enjoying camping with the campground open through Nov. 2.

A new program this year is Take a Kid Mountain Biking, happening Saturday, Oct. 4 at the park, 15600 W. Morrison Road. Lakewood's Regional Parks has teamed up with the Colorado Mountain Biking Association to introduce kids to the sport of mountain biking in a safe atmosphere appropriate for all levels of riders. In addition to covering the basics of biking, the program teaches proper trail use practices and environmental ethics. More information can be found at www.COMBA.org.

For guests looking to explore the park at night, the park's special fall event gets the entire family into the Halloween mood with the Haunted Trail Adventure on Oct. 18. Participants come decked out in their costumes to enjoy an evening of ghostly trails, tales and a marshmallow roast by the fire. In addition to all the spooky fun, HawkQuest will be at the visitor center

giving guests a chance to get up close to live birds of prey. At just \$5 per person, with children under age 3 free, the Haunted Trail Adventure is quickly becoming a Lakewood family favorite with more than 500 participants last year.

The park's naturalists have scheduled guided night hikes for Oct. 8, Nov. 6 and Dec. 6. Designed with the whole family in mind, these unique hikes are done without flashlights, using only the light of the full moon to show the way. Each guided hike averages 1½ hours of walking, talking and observing, and don't be surprised if you hear an owl. Naturalists ask that everyone remember to dress appropriately for the weather.

Finally, turn your gaze skyward during Reach for the Stars on Nov. 15. Participants will get a chance to gaze at the November sky through telescopes, enjoy a sky navigation tour, sip on hot cider and more. This educational and fun-for-all-ages activity is just \$2 per person. Find out more about Reach for the Stars and all the park's special events at www.Lakewood.org/BCLPEvents.

Cultural Center celebrates 15 years

The Lakewood Cultural Center has played home and host to thousands of performances, events, meetings and parties during the last 15 years. In addition to receiving new, comfy seats to ensure that the theater remains a stellar venue for shows, the 15th anniversary seemed a good time to look at what the theater has experienced since opening in 1999.

Some of the center's staff members shared their best, quirkiest memories of the past decade and half below.

In fall 2002, we co-presented Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" with the Morrison Theatre Company. The grand living room, which constituted the entire set, was to have been constructed in such a way that it would move upstage of the main curtain with relative ease to allow the curtain to be closed. Based on the understanding that we would be able to place the portable sound shell in front of the closed curtain, we scheduled the internationally renowned Takács Quartet to perform in its first Lakewood performance on a dark night (without a performance) of "The Mousetrap" run. Once the set was in place, it became quite clear that the curtain could not be closed, and the set was not going anywhere until it was disassembled at the end of the run. We took a photo of the set, and a bit sheepishly I emailed Takács to inquire if the group would be willing to perform in front of the set in our "living room." The quartet graciously agreed to do so. The

performance was brilliant on "The Mousetrap" set that night, with a "fire" burning in the living room fireplace. The quartet has since returned for seven more engagements, including the upcoming program in May 2015. Artists of that stature are often thought to be fussy and difficult, but Takács Quartet has proven to be more than accommodating and have become good friends of the Lakewood Cultural Center.

– Susan Martin, cultural center administrator

The Mile High Magicians Society has performed here for many years, and the show sells out every year. Early on, one of the magicians offered to show Tim Hoffman (the theater production coordinator) a trick. The magician produced a deck of cards and asked Tim to write his name on a card and place it back in the deck while he looked away. The magician then threw the entire deck up in the air and, before walking away, pointed skyward and said, "That's your card." There, stuck to the 25-foot ceiling, was Tim's signed card, and there it remains. Now you tell me how in the world did he do that?

– Kelly Graham, facility coordinator

Opie Gone Bad was in the middle of a great show on the plaza (outside the theater) when the sprinklers cycled on. The crowd jumped up so quickly that the band thought there was a snake in the grass! Luckily Tim (Hoffman) quickly figured out that a wide-neck Coors bottle fit perfectly over the sprinkler head.

– Allison Scheck, marketing and community relations manager

Get your stocking stuffed

Return to the Cultural Center for the holiday tradition of Timothy P. & the Rocky Mountain Stocking Stuffers with their four performances in December. Buy your tickets at Lakewood.org/Tickets.

What's the difference between grumpy and gleeful?
A great holiday party!

The City of Lakewood has a venue for every occasion.

Receive 10% off your facility rental.

Subject to availability. Exclusions may apply. Purchase now for holiday event rentals during November 2014-January 2015.

Lakewood.org/Rentals | 303.987.7806

WINTER WARM-UP

9 a.m.-noon | Saturday, November 1
GREEN MOUNTAIN RECREATION CENTER

- Free Admission
- Class Demos
- Facility Tours
- Equipment Orientations
- Ask a Trainer Your Fitness Questions
- Fitness Assessments
- Free Babysitting
- Special Deals on Facility Passes

Lakewood.org/GreenMountain | 303.987.4846
13198 W. Green Mountain Dr.

Come in from the cold and see all that you can do here!

City Briefs

Vote on marijuana stores

The Nov. 4 ballot for Lakewood voters contains the following question, "Shall it be unlawful to operate a retail marijuana store at any location" in Lakewood. Voting "for" the ballot question will be a vote to ban such retail stores in the city, and voting "against" it will be a vote to allow such stores to open in Lakewood. Voting in Lakewood will be by mail ballot only. For information about registering to vote in Lakewood, please call 303-987-7080 or visit Lakewood.org/Vote.

Help us sort it out

All recyclables must be sorted at the Quail Street Recycling Center at 1068 Quail St. The sorting will keep our costs down so we can continue to serve you. A complete description of what is accepted at the center and where it should be placed is available at www.Lakewood.org/Recycling. For questions or concerns, please call the City's Environmental Services Division at 303-987-7190.

Cider Days

What could be better than an apple pie eating contest and performing pigs? Come to Lakewood's annual Cider Days to celebrate the city's agricultural heritage. There's lots of cider pressing, and for the first time, there is a hard cider tasting area for the adults. Cider Days is 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 4 and 5 at the Lakewood Heritage Center, 801 S. Yarrow St. Learn more at www.Lakewood.org/CiderDays.



Solar power purchased

The City has purchased solar power that is expected to save the City money on its electricity bills for its buildings and facilities during the next 20 years. The power comes from the Clean Energy Collective solar garden in Jefferson County near West 56th Avenue. The purchase is for 274 kilowatts of power, which will flow into the electrical grid. In return, Lakewood will receive credits on its bill from Xcel Energy for the solar power while it also helps Xcel meet requirements for producing more of its power from renewable sources.

Field of dreams

In August, Foothills Elementary School in the Green Mountain area celebrated the groundbreaking for its Field of Dreams project that will transform the school's sports fields. Churches, parents, community members and even students contributing their allowances made donations for the project. Lakewood also secured a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado funded by the Colorado Lottery. "It shows fields of dreams can come true when we all work together to create something that will help our students and benefit the community as a whole," said Foothills Principal Sue Borzych. The fields have not been used to their full capacity for more than two decades because they were inadequate and uninviting.

IF IT WERE ONLY THIS EASY FOR A LOST PET TO FIND ITS WAY HOME.

303-278-7577

LICENSE YOUR PET IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, and we'll know who to return it to should it get lost.

FOOTHILLS ANIMAL SHELTER .org

COLORADO CITIES & TOWNS WEEK

Celebrate Lakewood Oct. 25



Free admission

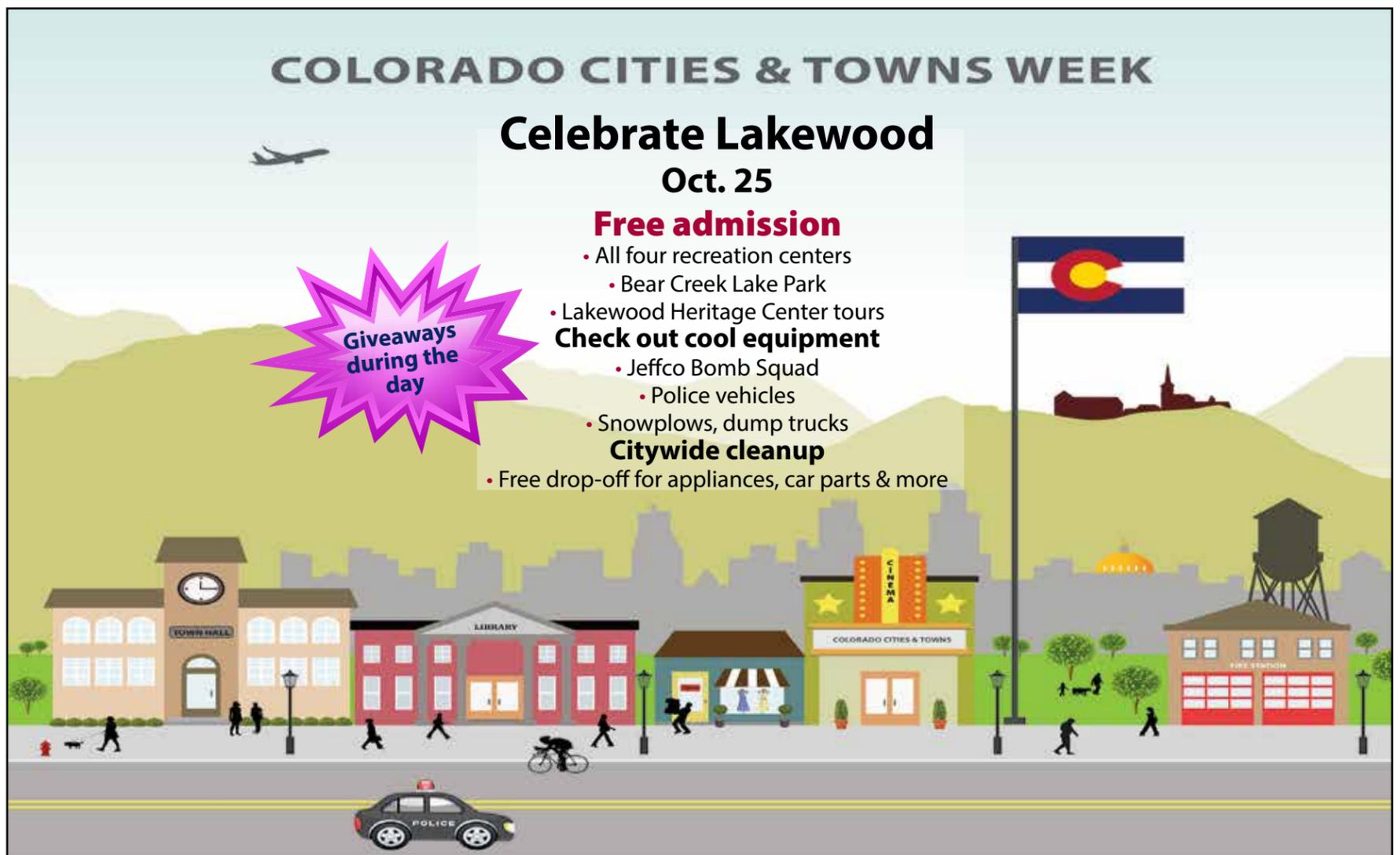
- All four recreation centers
- Bear Creek Lake Park
- Lakewood Heritage Center tours

Check out cool equipment

- Jeffco Bomb Squad
- Police vehicles
- Snowplows, dump trucks

Citywide cleanup

- Free drop-off for appliances, car parts & more



Times, location and more information

303-987-7098

Lakewood.org/Cityweek



Lakewood
Full of Possibilities.

COLORADO CITIES & TOWNS
www.coloradocitiesandtowns.org



Free film event celebrates **COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH**

Jump on your bicycle, ride the bus or drive with a friend, just get to the City's free showing of a film the New York Times praised for taking you from Paris to Mumbai to reveal how cities work and how they are planned.

October is National Community Planning Month, which highlights the role city planners and planning play in each community. To recognize the month, Lakewood is showing "Urbanized" on Tuesday, Oct. 21 in the newly renovated Lakewood Cultural Center Theater, 470 S. Allison Parkway. An opening reception with free refreshments is at 6 p.m. in the theater lobby, and the free film starts at 6:30 p.m. with opening remarks by Lakewood Mayor Bob Murphy.

"Urbanized," originally shown in theaters around the country, explores who shapes our cities and how they do it because cities aren't

created by any one specialist or expert. There are many contributors including residents. The film also looks at the challenges of balancing housing, mobility, public spaces, environmental policy and other issues. The documentary explores a diverse range of urban design projects around the world, framing a global discussion about the future of cities.

Planning staff will be available in the lobby after the film to answer questions. Construction in the Civic Center has affected parking and building entrances. Please visit www.Lakewood.org/CivicCenterRefresh for a map and up-to-date information on parking.

For questions about Lakewood's National Community Planning Month film event, please call 303-987-7503.



Embrace the Fax

Like a fine wine, West Colfax in Lakewood is just getting better with time. That's just one of the headlines for a new campaign to spread the word to entrepreneurs, developers and brokers about business and development opportunities on Colfax and the neighboring W Line station areas.

The fine wine headline plays up the story of the Orchid Wine Cave, a new business that has opened on West Colfax in a home built in 1872. The personal stories of the Orchid Wine Cave and other Lakewood businesses on Colfax are the heart

of the campaign targeted to spur invest in the corridor and around the light rail stations. Titled Embrace the Fax, the campaign shows how the W Line has infused a fresh sense of energy and purpose into the corridor and how Colfax is poised to become the next great business community in the metro area.

It also plays on the corridor's historic aspects and eclectic progress with pieces such as one about Weston Solutions building its offices with a rooftop garden and energy-efficient elements as one way to clean up a contaminated property near the Garrison Station. The campaign directs interested



businesses and developers to the EmbraceTheFax.org website that has ample information and videos about the corridor. It also allows Lakewood's

Economic Development Division and Planning Department to follow up with personal contact with interested businesses to facilitate the development process and to show how easy and beneficial it is to do business in Lakewood.

The City has launched the Embrace the Fax campaign in cooperation with the Lakewood-West Colfax Business Improvement District, the 40 West Arts District and the West Colfax Community Association. For more information, visit the website or call 303-987-7730.

Cleanup from page 1

Items accepted at cleanup*

- Electronics including flat screen televisions and computers
- Furniture, mattresses, box springs and bed frames
- Appliances including stoves, ovens, dishwashers, washing machines, dryers, refrigerators freezers and microwave ovens
- Sinks, toilets, bathtubs, carpet, flooring, doors and windows and wood stoves
- Engine blocks, car parts or small gas engine equipment
- Regular recyclable items such as plastic bottles, newspaper, glass, cardboard and cans
- *\$10 for each CRT computer monitor or TV (not flat screen versions)

Items not accepted at cleanup

- Tires
- Landscaping materials and yard waste including trees, branches, shrubs
- Scrap lumber, drywall or fencing
- Household chemicals, paint, fuel tanks or cans, propane bottles or light bulbs (These items accepted at Rooney Road Recycling, Lakewood.org/Recycling.)
- Gravel, asphalt, rock, sod, earth, concrete, brick, blocks, pavers or roofing material
- General household trash or loose debris that would normally be picked up by a residential trash company
- Materials or debris from a private contractor's work

Federal funds help with housing, preschool and more

The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, and the anniversary provides an opportunity to highlight the extensive accomplishments of the CDBG program in Lakewood during 2013.

The federal government created the program in 1974 to address critical and unmet community needs including those for housing rehabilitation, public facilities and parks, roads and other infrastructure, economic development, public services and more. Lakewood receives CDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development annually.

Recognizing the importance of early childhood education, Lakewood provides CDBG dollars to Lakewood's Head Start Program for child care scholarships for 45 qualifying children. These scholarships helped disadvantaged parents pay for quality, early education for their children

while allowing them to improve their own skills and secure employment.

The City also provided CDBG funds to Metro West Housing Solutions, the housing authority serving Lakewood, for its Self-Sufficiency Program. This crucial program served more than 1,500 low-income Lakewood residents by providing first-time homebuyer education, financial fitness classes, nutrition education, recreation scholarships, bus tokens and referral services.

Support from the CDBG Program helped 729 Lakewood students attend the Outdoor Education Laboratory School (Outdoor Lab). The program is an established outdoor education program that is a partner with the Jeffco Public Schools, providing an opportunity for all sixth-grade students to attend regardless of the ability to pay. Tuition assistance was provided to students qualifying for free or reduced school lunches. The funds assisted the students after recent

budget cuts in the school district affected tuition assistance for families unable to pay for the program.

CDBG funds also provided low-interest loans and grants to low-income homeowners for renovations of single-family homes to bring them up to National Housing Quality Standards. Sixteen homes were improved last year thanks to CDBG. The Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation Program helps to ensure that homeowners are not forced from their homes because of dangerous or substandard conditions.

These are just some examples of how the CDBG Program addressed critical and unmet community needs this past year. The City continues to serve as partners with community groups to reach our neighbors in need and to improve the quality of life in our community. For more information about the program, call 303-987-7522 or visit www.Lakewood.org/CDBG.

Get Involved

Know Your City Council Members



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To learn more about City Council, visit Lakewood.org/CityCouncil



2015 proposed budget

The most notable items in the proposed 2015 Annual Budget include \$2 million for adding sidewalks and paved bicycle paths in the city and completing the purchase of a new records management system for the Police Department that will be funded and used by several agencies in the county. The budget also has additional funding for annual programs such as repaving streets, and it ensures that the City can provide a consistent level of service to its residents.

The proposed budget for next year is \$108 million for the General Fund, which accounts for two-thirds of the City's budget. The General Fund pays for the majority of the expenses to provide services to residents, and the "income" for the fund comes mostly from sales taxes that shoppers pay. The overall budget for the City is \$178 million, which includes funds for operations, project-related expenses and restricted funds that can be spent only for specific purposes.

The City Council must have two public hearings to take public comment before the annual budget is adopted. Those public hearings will occur at the City Council's Oct. 13 and

Oct. 27 meetings, which start at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 480 S. Allison Parkway. They also can be viewed at www.Lakewood.org/CouncilVideos. The proposed 2015 Annual Budget is available for review at www.Lakewood.org/Budgets.

The \$2 million for adding sidewalks and bicycle paths will come from the City's "reserves," which is the City's savings account. The City's reserves have been built up during the last decade, allowing Lakewood to use some of those savings to construct significant projects important to the community. Residents have

expressed the desire to have a walkable and bikeable community, and those goals are a high priority for the City.

Through careful management of expenses and spending less than outlined in the annual budget, the City has added to its savings account. At the end of 2015, the reserves are projected to be \$32 million, which amounts to 29 percent of its expenses. If the City were a homeowner, that level of reserves would mean that it has the amount equal to 29 percent of all the bills it pays in a savings account.

"The City's financial position is as strong as it has ever been. Yet, economic volatility and uncertainty persist," City Manager Kathy Hodgson said in her budget message to City Council. "Consumer confidence and sales tax receipts can fluctuate in large amounts and in short periods of time. Because of this, the City has to be careful to manage its spending wisely and contain costs whenever possible."

Managing costs includes seeking partners with other governments

to provide services as efficiently as possible. That is what is occurring with the purchase of the new police records management system. Lakewood will join Arvada, Edgewater, Golden, Wheat Ridge and Jefferson County in buying the new system, which will provide real-time sharing of information among the officers in those jurisdictions as well as allowing for electronic filing of cases with the district attorney's office rather than using printed paper documents.

Because of the regional partnership, the City will pay 23 percent of the cost for the new records system, which will replace the 12-year-old system the City uses. The police will have an up-to-date system for filing reports, tracking cases and other functions.

The 2015 budget also includes money to rehabilitate the parking garage and drive aisle for the Public Safety Center that houses the Police Department and Municipal Court to fix deteriorated concrete in sidewalks, stairs and elsewhere, ensuring that the center is a safe and accessible place for the public.